



1 February 2006

Presidents Day Holiday Weekend Safety

1. On 20 February 2006 our Nation will honor the great Americans who have served as President and Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces. As we remember our former leaders and enjoy some well-deserved time off over the Presidents Day holiday weekend, let us also remember to keep up our guard.

2. Many of you will take advantage of the long weekend to travel, participate in winter sports, or simply spend time with loved ones. Whatever you do, I ask that you keep safety in mind and use composite risk management when making your plans.

3. The fundamentals of composite risk management we use to plan a mission can also be used to plan our off-duty activities. This cyclical process is just as applicable to crossing the street as it is to moving a unit downrange:

- **Identify the hazards:** Consider all aspects of current and future situations, environments, and known problem areas.

- **Assess the hazards to determine the risks:** Assess the effect of each hazard in terms of potential loss.

- **Develop controls and make risk decisions:** Develop control measures that eliminate the hazard or reduce its risk. As control measures are developed, risks must be reevaluated until the residual risk is at a level where the benefits outweigh the cost.



- **Implement controls that eliminate the hazards or reduce their risks:** Ensure the control measures are communicated to all involved.

- **Supervise and evaluate:** Enforce standards and controls, evaluate the effectiveness of the controls, and revise the controls as necessary. The chain of command and our leaders at all ranks must lead from the front.

McKIERNAN SENDS #5-06

4. In addition to using composite risk management when planning your activities, I ask you to watch out for your battle buddies. *No Loss of Life* is our goal. Last fiscal year we lost 13 Soldiers to accidents. So far this fiscal year, we have lost seven members of our team to accidents and two others in alcohol-related incidents. This is an alarming trend, especially considering that this is only the second quarter of the fiscal year. I need your assistance in reversing this trend and preserving our most precious asset: our Soldiers.

5. As each of you enjoys a safe and happy Presidents Day holiday weekend, remember that your Nation is very grateful for the sacrifices you are making in the Global War on Terrorism. So am I. I look forward to seeing all of you return safely to work after the holiday.



DAVID D. McKIERNAN
General, USA
Commanding



McKIERNAN SENDS #5-06